

**SPIRITUAL THINGS COMPARED  
WITH SPIRITUAL; OR, THE  
GOSPELS AND ACTS.  
ILLUSTRATED BY THE USE OF  
PARALLEL REFERENCES**

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Spiritual Things Compared with Spiritual; Or, the Gospels and Acts. Illustrated by the Use of Parallel References by Samuel H. Turner

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BY

SAMUEL H. TURNER, D.D.,

PROFESSOR OF BIB. LEARN. AND INTERP. OF SCRIPTURE,  
IN THE GEN. THEOL. SEMINARY.

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1859.

TO  
THE ALUMNI  
OF THE  
**General Theological Seminary,**

WHICH THE WRITER REMEMBRANTLY AND HEEDFULLY BEARS IN MIND, BOTH AS FORMER STUDENT AND  
PRESENT PASTOR OF THE FLOCK OF MEMPHIS, AND FOR THEIR DISTRESS AND  
WALKING, AS SUBJECTS OF THE BLESSING OF HEAVEN, BOTH IN THIS WORLD  
AND IN THAT WHICH IS TO COME, HE OFFERS HIS REMOVED PRAYER,

THIS LITTLE BOOK,

In the hope that it may become a Memorial of former associations, an aid,  
however imperfect, in reading the Evangelical Biographies, and a useful  
Companion for those of their respective Congregations who rightly appre-  
ciate the Great Master's direction, "SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES,"

IS MOST AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED

BY THEIR

Friend and Brother in the Church of the Living God,

**SAMUEL H. TURNER.**

*Gen. Theol. Seminary,  
Sept. 1862.*



## P R E F A C E.

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IN publishing this little book, the author feels it necessary to make a few introductory remarks.

The apparent want of uniformity between the very brief exposition in the former portion, and that on St. John's Gospel and the Acts which is more in detail, requires some explanation; and this will be most readily made by a statement of the writer's original intention. In the year 1848 he published a small volume of eighty pages, consisting of Parallel References on the New Testament. His intention was to assist any reader who sincerely desired to make himself acquainted with the holy Book, and therefore was willing to take the trouble to compare one portion with another, and to examine the connection and apparent purport of each, before forming a decided opinion of their respective meanings. He hoped it might be useful to intelligent Bible classes, and also to teachers of Sunday Schools. But his principal object was, to place the necessary references in the hands of his theological students, both to save the trouble of taking them as notes, and also the time required to dictate them. Instead of accumulating a vast number of references, such as may be found in multitudes of Bibles, where they stand unnoticed by readers in general, and in a majority of cases are unsatisfactory to the examiner, his desire was to select a few of those



that bore directly on the words, or sentiments, or doctrines to be illustrated, and thus to develop the harmony and consequent truthfulness of the sacred writings. On the reopening of the Seminary in October last, it was found that a sufficient number of copies could not be obtained for necessary use. The author, therefore, determined to publish another edition, which he hoped also to improve, as he had become satisfied that the former was not sufficiently clear for ordinary readers. The particular bearing of the references had not been stated, and in some instances was not obvious. The necessity of considering this point before any light could be thrown upon the clauses under review, made the use of the publication less easy than could be wished. It was therefore determined to inform the reader what the passages referred to were thought to illustrate, leaving it to himself to draw the right conclusions. Brevity was chiefly aimed at, and any notice of portions, which seemed sufficiently plain to sincere and careful students, was therefore entirely omitted. As the author proceeded in his task, and especially when it brought under consideration the more profound and spiritual instructions of the divine Teacher, he thought it expedient, not to say necessary, to go somewhat more into detail. As unfortunately the former portion of the book was in print before the latter had been properly prepared, it became impossible to make alterations producing such a harmony of the whole volume as would certainly be desirable.

Notwithstanding what has just been said respecting the latter portion of the book, the main idea of its title has not been lost sight of. The interpretation is founded on the use of parallel references, although their bearing and meaning, the principle, historical statements, points of doctrine, etc., which they imply, or sustain, or illustrate, may be more particularly drawn out, and made the more prominent ground of exposition. It will be observed, therefore, that many portions are

entirely ignored, however important or difficult they may be in themselves, either in a critical, or historical, or doctrinal view, because their meaning or inspired authority cannot be settled merely by a comparison of Scripture with Scripture. This remark is applicable to such cases as the genuineness of the first two Chapters of St. Matthew's Gospel, the doubtfulness of a small portion near the commencement of John 5, the story of the adulterous woman in John 8, the harmony of the accounts of our Lord's resurrection, and several other topics in themselves of very great interest. On all matters of this sort, and also on all questions introductory to the Gospels and Acts of the Apostles, such as authorship, time, purpose of writing, and other similar points, recourse must be had to Commentators and Critics. They have been of late so thoroughly investigated, that no inquisitive reader of moderate intelligence need fail to secure an acquaintance with all necessary information.

When the preparation of the present volume was begun, it was intended to continue the selection of references, with brief notices of their general meaning, through the whole of the New Testament. But in the course of its progress it was soon found by experience, that to accomplish such an undertaking, so as to give even the most moderate degree of satisfaction, would be a constantly increasing labor; and no such publication could be prepared under several years. This will be readily understood by any one who has ever made the effort of collecting accessible data, and examining for himself various scriptural connections, not depending entirely on the statements of others, however respectable in character, and distinguished for talent and learning. A desire to have the volume ready for the next class, made it absolutely necessary to limit the undertaking to the historical books of the New Testament.

Here I take the opportunity of remarking that a careful

study of the Gospels and Acts constitutes the best preparation for that of the Epistles. It imparts a knowledge of the New Testament language, which every student should acquire, in order to become a competent instructor in Christian truth. It prepares for the fuller development of doctrinal points, which otherwise are likely to become enwrapped in the mists of cloudy uncertainty and indefiniteness. Let the teachings of the Master, as embodied in the biographical narratives of his true disciples, be thoroughly examined and made to exercise a due influence on the head and heart of the learner, and he will become the better prepared to understand and rightly appreciate those "many things" which, when they could "bear them," the Saviour poured into their souls, by means of "the Holy Ghost whom the Father sent in his name," that divine agent of his by whom he "guided them into all the truth" of his Gospel. See John 16:12, 14:26, 16:13.

The Holy Bible, though composed by persons of different capacity and character, and under very varying conditions of time, place, and human association, is the inspired word of God, and, like his works, is characterized by a harmony and a unity which mark the divinity of its origin. Its representations of sacred truth are never inconsistent, however much they may differ in form, and manner, and degree, all of which are in accordance with the circumstances of the respective writers. Its fundamental unity, therefore, is never lost sight of by the one original superintending Author. Hence it is that one portion becomes illustrative of another, where the general topic is the same; and therefore the spiritual things embodied in one are most satisfactorily explained by the aid of those which are contained in another. A comparison of various texts frequently produces the most satisfactory exposition; and, as this method of "searching the Scriptures" is within the ability of most readers, it is highly to be recommended. The process may be slow, but the success is, in a